

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 SCI-06 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-12 COME-00 DOTE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ ECP: JLANDBERG

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USDA: DR. MEYER

USDA: DR. YEUTTER

ARA/ ECP: JTROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, CO

SUBJ: FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA

REF: SEPTTEL INSTRUCTIONS

TEXT OF LETTER MENTIONED IN SEPTTEL FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER, I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY GOVERN-
MENT ITS VIEWS ON THE FOOT- AND- MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL
PROGRAM YOU PROPOSED FOR THE NORTHERN
CHOCO REGION, AS DESCRIBED IN YOUR LETTER TO ME OF
DECEMBER 5, 1972.

THE DETAILED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THAT LETTER WAS CON-
SIDERED VERY HELPFUL IN EVALUATING THE PROBABLE EFFECTIVE-
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NESS OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM. CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE MEASURES DESCRIBED, INCLUDING THE PLAN FOR THE AREA SOUTH OF THE DARIEN HIGHWAY ROUTE, APPEAR ESSENTIALLY ADEQUATE TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSES INTENDED. THE GENERAL PLAN FOR AN FMD- FREE ZONE ADJACENT TO THE CATTLE- FREE ZONE ALONG THE BORDER ALSO PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM.

DESPITE THESE POSITIVE ASPECTS, WE BELIEVE THAT MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED FMD CONTROL PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED, WILL NOT PROVIDE THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT THE DISEASE- FREE COUNTRIES TO THE NORTH. WITH REGARD TO THE FMD- FREE ZONE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE FOR VERY SPECIFIC METHODS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. THESE WOULD INCLUDE SUCH MATTERS AS PROVISION FOR ENCLOSING THE BORDERS OF THE ZONE, CONTROLS ON INTRODUCTION OF ANIMALS FROM OUTSIDE THE ZONE, QUARANTINE AND SLAUGHTER FACILITIES, AND PERIODIC SURVEYS OF THE DISEASE SITUATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE ZONE. TO A LARGE DEGREE WE HOPE THAT THESE DETAILED MEASURES CAN CLARIFIED AND/ OR STRENGTHENED ON A TECHNICAL BASIS WITHOUT MAJOR DIFFICULTY.

OF MORE CONCERN IS THE PLAN FOR AN " AREA FREE OF CATTLE" NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY ROUTE. THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF THIS AREA WILL PERMIT A NUMBER OF EXISTING CATTLE RANCHES TO REMAIN IN OPERATION, EVEN THOSE LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE PANAMA BORDER. AN AREA OF SUCH DIMENSIONS, IN THE OPINION OF OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS, WILL NOT PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER. RATHER AS WE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY IT SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF EIGHT (8) KILOMETERS WIDE FROM THE HIGHWAY NORTH TO THE CARIBBEAN IN ORDER TO SERVE ITS INTENDED PURPOSE. THE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNERS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY AN AREA OF THIS SIZE WOULD BE REASONABLY SMALL, PERHAPS 200. OF ADDITIONAL CONCERN IS THAT AREA (DESCRIBED IN ITEM 1.3.3. OF YOUR LETTER) " IN THE VALLEY OF THE RIO ASTI, FROM THE PANAMA BORDER TO THE MOUTH OF THE RIO MUERTO" WHERE APPARENTLY NO CATTLE- FREE ZONE IS PLANNED. LIVESTOCK AND PEOPLE ARE VERY NEAR THE BORDER IN THIS AREA AND, IN ADDITION, IT IS A PATHWAY WHICH COULD EASILY BE USED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR TRAVEL AND TRADE ACROSS THE BORDER INTO PANAMA, THUS

CREATING AN AVENUE FOR THE NORTHWARD SPREAD OF FMD.

ANOTHER MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN IS THE PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE WITH A LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED CATTLE- FREE AREA NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY. OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT TO PROVIDE A BARRIER WHICH IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE SPREAD OF FMD NORTHWARD CATTLE PRODUCTION IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THAT NECESSARY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. CONTINUING LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA MAY MAKE THIS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE
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